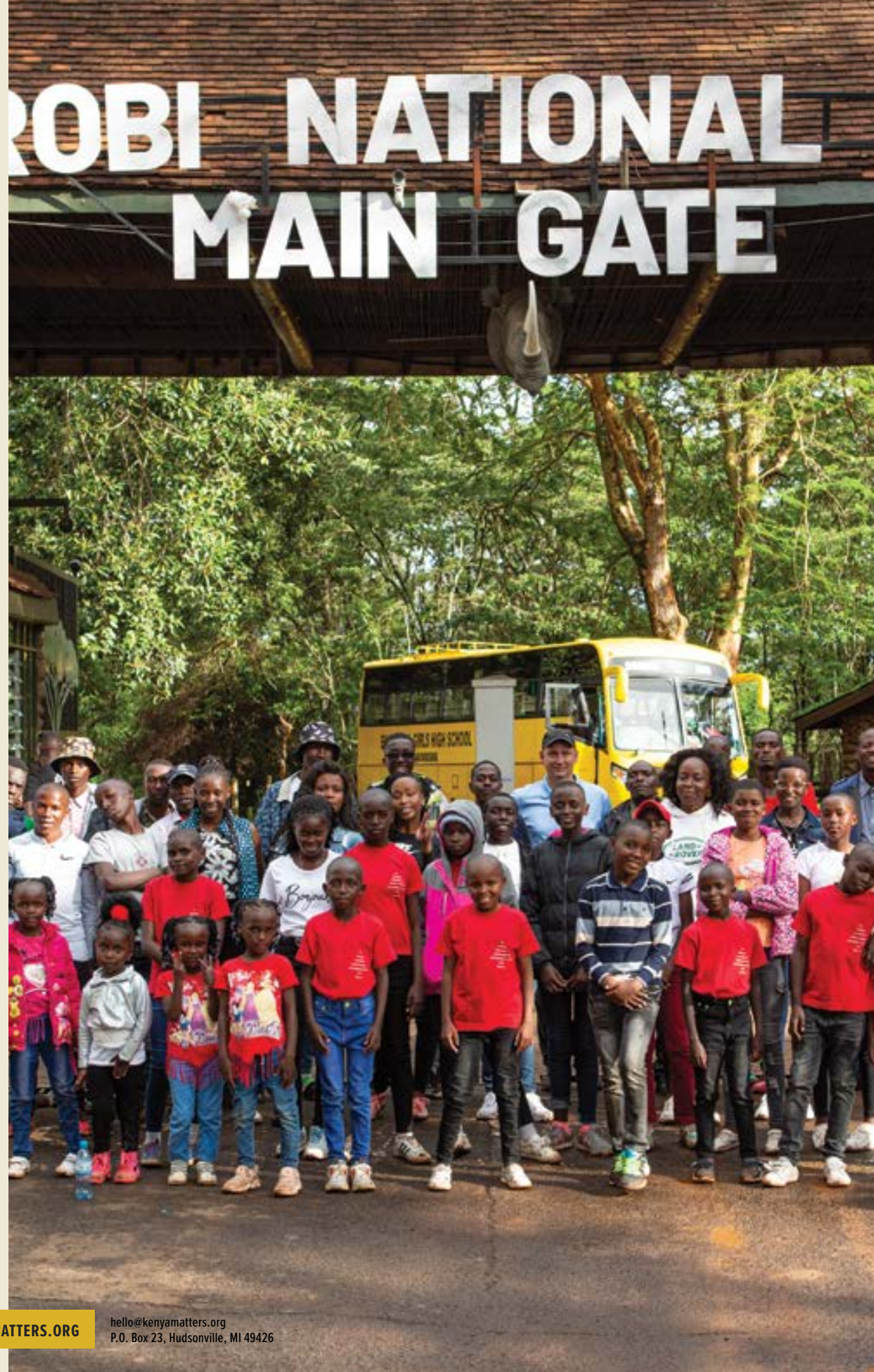
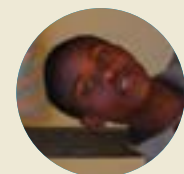
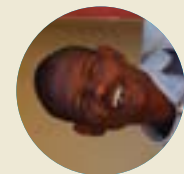




# 2026 GIFT CATALOG

W.KENYAMATTERS.ORG





## Mission & Vision FOR OUR KENYA MATTERS FAMILY!

**Kenya Matters seeks to nurture and empower at-risk children and families in collaboration with Kenyan partners, with an active donor community in the United States and around the world.**

Kids are in school, getting healthier, and feeling safer, but their future is far from set. They need mentors to guide them into the future, help to create jobs for themselves, tuition for colleges, counseling for trauma, and continued encouragement to hope for tomorrow.

Perhaps our greatest pride at Kenya Matters is to see kids grow up with a desire to “pay it forward”. They pray for resources to help their relatives, neighbors, and sometimes siblings that can not find room in the current program.

They pray for their American and Dutch friends, often by name. They are working hard to lift themselves up, as grateful recipients of God’s help and ours. They are motivated to continue on in life so that they can share more abundantly with others. The love and care they receive, expressed through their lives to others, is the hope we hold.

OCTOBER 16, 2025

With Heartfelt Gratitude from the CRCA

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Community Recovery Center of Africa (CRCA), we extend our warmest appreciation to Kenya Matters and all of you, the incredible donors and supporters. Your partnership has transformed lives and given hope where it previously seemed impossible.

Through your generosity, we have been able to achieve life changing transformation. Here are a few of the ways we experienced this reality in 2025.

**Borehole Project (water well):** Continues to provide clean water to our home and neighbor’s houses across our community.

**Generator Project:** During frequent power failing, the generator has been there, ensuring our children have access to light.

**Sheep Project:** The sheep program has created sustainable livelihoods, providing income and food security that uplifts families in our community.

**Education Support:** One of the greatest fruits of your investment is educating children from humble backgrounds. They have had opportunities to graduate and

pursue meaningful careers, some even running their own businesses. Others have become teachers, accountants, plumbers, nurses, and a pastor. They can now support their families and give back to society.

**Solar Project:** Your support enabled the installation of a solar system which reduces the children’s home reliance on national power.

Today, our home runs fully on solar energy. We no longer have to suffer the cost of power bills, and we are able to concentrate on farming.

These accomplishments tell a story of HOPE and TRANSFORMATION. This reminds us that when people come together with love and compassion, lives change.

This quote after the death of my husband: “The future is all sugar in the tea with more potential to be more sweet. It has already been shared and born good fruit.”  
TRUE, I say!

At the CRCA, we see you not only as donors but as family. Your faith in us has lit the path for children who had no hope. Your continued partnership ensures that many more will walk to brighter futures.

*Dorcas Wachira*

**Dorcas Wachira**  
CRCA Co-Founder & Director



# ESTHER’S EDUCATION JOURNEY

From CRCA student to teacher



Esther grew up at the CRCA. She was always active in the social life of the children’s home, and studies were important to her. With good grades, she was able to graduate high school and attend one of the universities in Kenya. She graduated from university at the end of 2024 with a degree in education.

In January of 2025, she was offered a teaching position at the school where she attended prior to university. She is now teaching some of the younger children who live at the CRCA. In her mid 20s, she has already become a blessing to the next generation.

Recently, we sat down to catch up with Esther.

**Randy:** How do you understand yourself now that you are a young adult and working as a teacher? How did the CRCA influence your life thus far? How might have life been different if you had two healthy parents? And how are you understanding your work as a teacher, and how do you imagine life for yourself in five and ten years?

**Esther:** That’s a big set of questions. Makes me pause and think.

Growing up in CRCA shaped much of how I understand myself today. I learned early about independence, resilience, and the value of community. I didn’t have my birth parents, but I had people who cared and who made me passionate about caring for others.

As a young adult and a teacher, I see myself as someone still learning and growing. My experiences make me sensitive to my student’s struggles. Although sometimes I scold them, I try to see beyond their behavior to what might be happening inside.

The CRCA influenced my life by giving me opportunities, mentorship, and a sense of belonging. It made me someone who deeply understands what it means to care and to keep going even when things in life are hard.

If I had grown up with two healthy parents maybe life would have been easier, but I don’t think I would carry the same depth of empathy or drive to help others.

Over the next five years, I see myself continuing to grow. I am hoping to get a scholarship this year to complete my master’s degree. In ten years, I hope to look back and see lives that changed because I dared to turn my pain into purpose.

**Randy:** Thank you!

## DAILY NEEDS

Kenya Matters makes a significant impact on the lives of the children and families with whom we are involved. As a volunteer-led organization located in the U.S., with supporters around the globe, we provide at-risk children with support that continues beyond high school.

Our children cannot rely on parents or relatives for any portion of their daily living expenses. Thus, Kenya Matters works to provide the full amount of care, averaging \$100 per child per month.

Following their high school graduation, we follow the example of many healthy families by continuing to support them as necessary and staying connected.

MONTHLY LIVING EXPENSES	
\$25	Bed Sheet and Blanket
\$100	Living Expenses 1 student, 1 month
\$120	Eye Dr. Appointment (includes transportation)
EDUCATION	
\$15	Backpack for a child
\$25	Shoes Mandatory to attend school
\$35	Uniforms Mandatory to attend school
\$65/Trimester	Elementary School
\$100/Trimester	High School
\$120	University fees for one month



## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE: SHEEP PROJECT

The simple gift of five sheep can help raise an entire family out of abject poverty. These animals provide income through milk, meat, and lambs. The recipients of these sheep are relatives of the children living at the safehouse.

The first and second born lambs born from the five donated sheep are returned back to the program so that others can benefit. Thus, the cycle of generosity continues. In its own unique way, this gift keeps giving.

This is our longest-running program, beginning even before the children arrived at the safehouse in 2008. This is yet another way your gift strengthens the larger community surrounding the CRCA.

SHEEP SUPPORT	
\$300	5 Sheep
\$60	1 Sheep



YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT KIDS OR GRADUATES’ MONTHLY EXPENSES!

Sign up to become a monthly supporter (any amount) and receive two free Kenya Matters T-shirts!



# SUSTAINABILITY GOALS FOR 2026

With the completion of the solar panel project, we now look toward additional sustainability projects. Our Kenyan staff has identified three areas that will move them forward. We have adopted these items, along with one from our side of the ocean, as our Four BIG goals for 2026.

**1. Increase Water Storage Capacity**  
*Approximate cost is \$2,800*

It is far more efficient when the water pump system can run during daylight hours because the pump runs off solar energy. Thus, the staff is recommending that we upgrade our water tank storage capacity. This will require the acquisition of two to four tanks, along with a second water tower to support the tanks.

**2. Solar Water Heaters**  
*Approximate cost is \$4,000 for two units*

Ten years ago, a solar water heater was purchased and installed above the kitchen area. It provides hot water for cleaning and cooking. Before this installation, the water was heated with wood, fire, and a very large pot.

To move further toward the elimination of firewood use, the staff is recommending that we install two additional solar water heaters. One above the boy’s shower and bathroom area, and the other above the girl’s area.

**3. Water Pump Upgrades**  
*Approximate cost of \$7000*

After nearly twelve years of the borehole (aka well) pumping water for the children’s home, neighbors, and the larger community, some of the infrastructure is beginning to age and needs maintenance and repair. An upgraded water pump will also run more efficiently.

**4. 10 New Monthly Donors**

We are hoping you will consider becoming a monthly donor. With the cost of inflation, increased education costs, and more of the children attending high school, we are hoping to add monthly supporters. Our goal for 2026 is to add 10 new monthly donors.

Will you be one of them?

Text  
“KMDEC”  
to phone number  
53-555 to donate  
over text.

2X Water tanks for storage	2X Solar water heaters for showering
Water Pump Upgrades	+10 New monthly donors



Photo: Water Storage



Photo: Solar Water Heater

# SOLAR PROJECT

**Our dreams and hopes so often go unfulfilled. Yet, sometimes, with the help of many, they can become reality.**

2025 was a year of dreams becoming reality for the children’s home that you support in Karai, Kenya! Before the pandemic, Kenya Matters was raising funds for the purchase of a small bus to transport the children to and from school every day. Finding reliable transportation for them was difficult. So, with the inspiration and recommendation of our Kenyan staff and the Kenyan board of the CRCA, we began a fundraising campaign for a bus. Then, COVID caught the world by surprise, and much changed.

Kenya came to a standstill, with much of the population not having access to good medication, and with the late arrival of the vaccine, movement was limited. Schools and virtually all businesses were expected to keep human contact to a bare minimum.

While Kenya continues to recover from the pandemic, some things on the ground have changed. Someone from the community purchased a small bus and was willing to ferry the children to and from school for a small daily fee. When our Kenyan leadership evaluated the cost of a bus, insurance, fuel, and a driver, it was determined that having the local person take over this responsibility was in everyone’s best interest. So, we pivoted.

We, as the Kenya Matters board, sent emails and letters to the majority of the donors of the bus fund. We asked to transfer the nearly \$20,000 that had been raised to another project, something that would increase efficiency for the CRCA. (If you did not receive a letter, that is my fault. Sorry.)

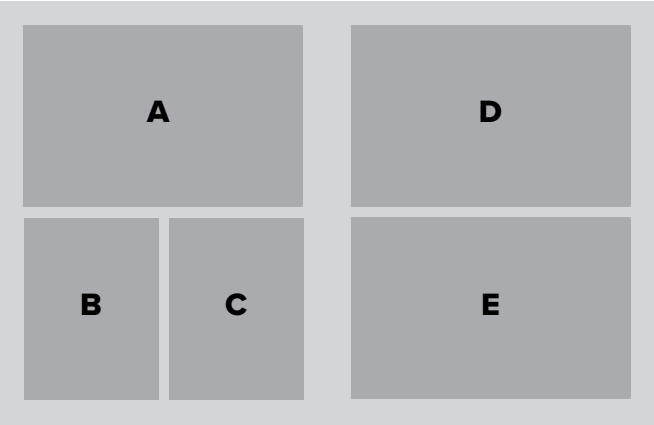
With electricity costs skyrocketing in Kenya, creating a self-sustaining power grid was determined to be cost-effective. After consulting with three reputable companies in Kenya, along with a solar company in the States, the board decided to raise funds for this project. Thus, out of the pandemic came the dream of a solar project capable of running the entire facility. With the arrival of support from donors during our March 2025 Mac & Meatball event, the remaining funds were secured for this \$31,000 project.

It took the summer months to award the contract, and work began soon thereafter. Within three weeks of the signing, the last wires were connected and the electricity was taken off the Kenyan power supplied grid!

As of this writing, six weeks after the switch was flipped, the power grid has not been needed. State-of-the-art batteries fully supply the demands during cloudy periods and during the evening hours. With the morning sunshine, the batteries begin to recharge, and the electric supply of the day is taken from the solar panels.

Dorcas Wachira, or director in Kenya, says that the children continue to marvel that the entire facility is being powered by the beautiful Kenyan sunshine.

To those of you who made this all possible, thank you!



**CAPTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SPREAD**

- A - Roof torn down & wall built higher
- B - Interior walls of power room being completed
- C - Power room exterior finished
- D - Structure being built
- E - Finished solar panels!







# MEET THE CHILDREN

These are the children who are currently living at the CRCA safehouse. This is where they live, are loved, learn about life, and grow into thriving teenagers.

Please take time to look at the pictures of these amazing young people. They love sharing their pictures with those who are helping make their hopes and dreams

SNAPSHOT OF THE CHILDREN

Primary School  
20 Children

Secondary School  
10 Children

College & University  
5 Young Adults

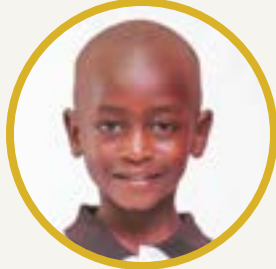
Text  
"KMDEC"  
to phone number  
53-555 to donate  
over text.



David Kamau  
Pre-School



Daisy Wanjiru  
Pre-School



Peter Kariuki  
Pre-School



Samuel Mwangi  
Grade 1



Blessing Wanjiru  
Grade 2



Carolyn Wanjiru  
Grade 2



Mercy Nyokabi  
Grade 2



Stephen Muchiri  
Grade 2



John Njuguna  
Grade 2



John Etelenet  
Grade 6



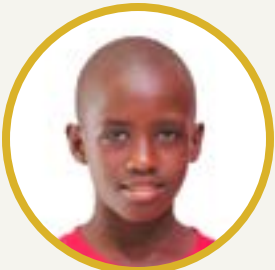
Mary Wambui  
Grade 6



Miriam Wangari  
Grade 6



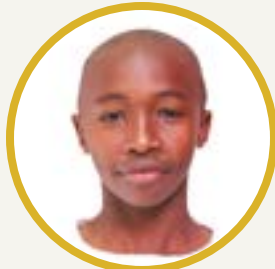
Mary Nyakio  
Grade 7



Erick Kuria  
Grade 7



Faith Cherono  
Grade 8



Joseph Njerga  
Grade 8



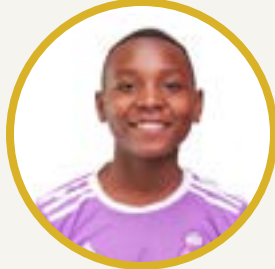
Maxwell Mdoo  
Grade 8



Patrick Mwangi  
Grade 8



Rose Waceke  
Grade 8



Samuel Nguguna  
Grade 8



Pauline Wanjiku  
Grade 9



Ann Wangui  
Grade 10



Brian Juma  
Grade 10



Kelly Githuka  
Grade 10



Mitchell Wanjiku  
Grade 10



Evans Muthui  
Grade 11



Geoffrey Nbugua  
Grade 11



Erick Kokolan  
Grade 11



Pedro (Peter) Ngemia  
Grade 12



Payan Dorcas  
Grade 12



Davide Wangari  
University



Joseph Lomar  
University



Lewis Kiare  
University



Isaac Kimani  
University



Ezekiel Macharia  
University

GRADUATE STORIES

# JOHN'S JOURNEY

From CRCA student to resident Pastor



John Karanja was nearly the impetus for the creation of the children's home. As we often say, Kenya Matters was never a planned non-profit. It came out of friendships and the need to help children in the community who were struggling after the loss of their parents.

The very brief version of the story: In the late 1990s, Elijah and Dorcas Wachira, began to build their dream home, their retirement home in the countryside of Kenya, not far from the town of Naivasha. Fast forward to the completion of the home and their moving to the community - there was no real retirement as Elijah was tapped to fill a vacant pastor's role at a small local church.

One day, when Dorcas and Elijah were visiting two widows in the community, they were asked if they would take the only child that was in the family. The young boy resided with his great-grandmother and grandmother. His name was John Karanja.

Knowing the local children's homes in the community were not well-funded nor well-run at that time, the Wachira's began to feel a burden for the children in the community who were living day-to-day, often on the streets. This was the beginning of the idea and vision for the children's home, not created by Americans, but by Kenyans who thought they were going to cruise into their retirement. Thus, the life of John Karanja, as a young boy, and now as the children's pastor at the CRCA, looms large in the story of the CRCA.

“

He does pastoral work with the children, devotions in the morning and evening, escorts the children to school morning and evening, teaches Sunday school on Saturdays, and he is leading Sunday services.

In addition, he is in-charge of games with the older children to keep them occupied when times are slow around the home and all chores and school work is finished.

Thanks for standing with us for him to reach this far.”

— Dorcas Wachira, Children's Home Director

“

My name is John Karanja Wanjiru, born and raised by my late great-grandmother and my grandmother. Later, I was taken to a children's home where I took my primary and secondary education. (Kindergarten through high school) After sitting for my final exam at secondary school in the year 2015, I was enrolled in Bible College at Kapsabet in Nandi County. I graduated with my degree in pastoral theology. My life in Bible College taught me a lot and especially about social interaction.

I have learned that being a pastor does not exempt me to face challenges in life. Serving as a pastor at the children's home, where I was raised, has taught me many lessons, especially about character development.

I could not have imagined that I would be seated in the company of my fellow colleagues, whom once cared for me. I want to thank Kenya Matters and the CRCA fraternity for giving us a chance to grow and reach where we are now.”

— John Karanja, CRCA Pastor to the Children



Dorcas Wachira  
Children's Home  
Director



John Karanja  
Resident Pastor



John Kuru  
Night Watchman



Joseph Katap  
Groundskeeper



Joseph Muchiri  
Grounds Keeper



Judy Wangi  
Cook



Maria Njeri  
Social Worker



Monicah Njoki  
Dorm Care



Nancy Waithira  
Kitchen Director & Cook



Tobais Emodo  
Manager

## HEAR FROM OUR KENYAN STAFF

“

When I meet with children individually after church and sometimes after school, or when they have something private to ask. They come down to my house, and they share what happened the past week in school. Sometimes they will share their journey with their guardians or relatives.

When these children achieve their dreams in life.

When I flash back to where we have come from, the borehole (water well), the Generator, building a House for Michell's Siblings, buying the Guardians Sheep, and even being able to create jobs for the 10 permanent staff who help their families.”

— Dorcas Wachira, Children's Home Director

“

In the evening when the children return from school. I enjoy presenting to them, encouraging them, and sharing in their joy.

It reminds me why I am here and strengthens my commitment to care for them.”

— Tobias Imondo, Manager

“

Am very happy here. CRCA people are with a lot of love towards me.”

— Philip Leakono, Night Watchman

“

When am busy doing my daily work. It is my passion.”

— Nancy Waithira, Kitchen Director & Cook

“

When I am with the children after doing my duties from 3pm - 5 pm, I help the children do their home work. Being a social worker, I interact with them where they share their feelings and social life.”

— Maria Njeri Kamau, Social Worker

“

Actually in the morning. When the day starts, especially after waking them up and meeting them in good health. This minimizes loneliness and gives me a good chance to plan my duties well and accordingly.”

— Joseph Muchiri, Dorm Care for Boys

“

Always happy doing my work either day or night. I feel very free working here in CRCA.”

— John Kiru, Night Watchman



# TRAVEL TO KENYA WITH US IN 2026

NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 7

**Leave the day after Thanksgiving, missing all of the holiday shopping craziness, and join us on the adventure of a lifetime!**

Those of us who have traveled to Kenya have been so inspired by the generosity and commitment of the local staff, board, and their village neighbors. We have been challenged to rethink our own versions of “community” and expressions of generosity, and the Kenyan culture and people have transformed us.

In the spirit of learning and growth for transformation, we invite you to join us on a journey to Kenya in 2026. We anticipate this trip to last eleven or twelve days, with three of these days designated for travel.



During your time in Kenya, you will spend time with the children, staff, and community that you support through Kenya Matters. Whether you are a first-time supporter or a long-timer, we welcome you to join us on this adventure.

Activities will include playing games, making art, taking walks, having devotions together, and going on a field trip with the children.

You will stay near the children’s home, with arrangements that include tasty food & colorful culture, fully immersing yourself in the daily life of Kenya.

If you are inspired, please contact Randy or Heidi at [hello@kenyamatters.org](mailto:hello@kenyamatters.org)

We would seriously love to have up to eight people join us for this two-week Kenyan adventure!

## ESTIMATED COSTS:

- **Airfare to & from Nairobi, Kenya:** Cost determined by airfare at the time of reservations. (Approx. \$1200—1500 round-trip)
- **Lodging, food, & transportation:** Estimated at \$100/day.
- **Safari to the Masai Mara, three days & two nights, including lodging & food:** Approx. \$950, if so desired. You can opt out of the safari and stay several more days with the children.



## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FAMILY-FRIENDLY COOK-OFF EVENT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026**  
**5:00-7:30 PM**

Gratefully sponsored by  
The Red Shed



### New Venue!

The Red Shed, Hudsonville MI

### New Energy!

The planning team is excited to put a few twists on the event while maintaining the fun, competitive atmosphere. If you haven’t attended before, you will not want to miss it. If you have joined us in the past, you can look forward to a different, yet familiar experience.

### The Same Goal and Enticing Outcome!

You are supporting at-risk kids in Kenya and transforming lives. This informal fundraiser is a fiercely fun cook-off event and silent auction; attendees taste and vote on the best entries, and the best cooks are crowned Super-Chefs. Join us and enjoy great food, compete for silent auction items, and hear about the kids and projects at the children’s home.

### Celebration After Party @ 7:45 pm

For those interested, let’s celebrate the lives changed and the successful completion of the solar project.





*Elijah stretching out his arms  
to bless the land that was  
purchased for the children's  
home while Dorcas celebrates  
with him.*

PIC TAKEN APPROX 2006, KARAI, KENYA

